This is further responsive to the Office action dated January 11, 1999 and responsive to the Office action dated September 10, 1999. Claims 11-17 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office actions state that the specification is not enabling for a woven fabric comprising fibers other than axially oriented polypropylene tape. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Contrary to the Office actions' statement that the "specification teaches at page 12, lines 6-25 that the woven fabric must comprise axially oriented polypropylene fibers," the specification discusses two types of fibers. The first type of fiber is woven together to make a fabric which may be utilized in a flexible intermediate bulk container. These fibers "may be composed of a tight weave of axially oriented polypropylene flat tape material." Page 12, lines 6-7. The specification further discusses the inclusion of quasi-conductive fibers to the flexible fabric container.

Claim 11 is directed to a method for reducing the energy of electrostatic discharge in an ungrounded type flexible fabric container system. The method includes providing a woven fabric and including within the woven fabric a plurality of quasi-conductive fibers. Page 16 of the specification provides various characteristics of quasi-conductive fibers. Quasi-conductive fibers dissipate charge on the fabric containers system through corona discharge but have sufficient resistance to avoid incendiary type discharges. Each quasi-conductive fiber may consist of a single fiber, or it may be a combination of fibers woven or otherwise interconnected to make the fiber. The quasi-conductive fibers may have a relatively conductive core and a sheath of quasi-conductive or non-conductive material. Alternatively, the fibers may be formed of a substantially homogenous material or heterogeneous materials.

Conductive materials have a resistivity of about 10^5 ohms, non-conductive materials have a resistivity of about 10^{12} to 10^{13} ohms, and quasi-conductive fibers have a resistivity between conductive and non-conductive materials. See page 17 of the specification.

One fiber disclosed in the specification to be quasi-conductive is a P-190 fiber from DuPont. The P-190 fiber is a multifilament fiber, and thus not a flat tape fiber. See page 17, line 30.

Applicant respectfully submits that the specification adequately teaches one ordinarily skilled in the art the dissipative type of fibers to be used in the claimed method, i.e., quasi-conductive fibers. Further, the specification teaches that quasi-conductive fibers may be monofilament or multifilament and may have a conductive core and a quasi-conductive or non-conductive sheath, and may be formed of heterogeneous materials which combine to create a surface resistivity in the quasi-conductive range. In addition, the specification teaches that a P-190 fiber, which is a multifilament fiber, may be utilized in the claimed method.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-17 are in full conformance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Further, for at least the reasons provided in the applicant's June 28, 1999 Amendment, applicant submits that claims 11-17 are patentable over the cited references.

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Respectfully submitted,

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